

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-12 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-12 have been allowed. Within the Office Action it is stated that the application is in condition for allowance except for certain formal matters addressed within this response.

Objections to the Specification

Within the Office Action, the specification has been objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, it is stated within the Office Action that the specification fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation "a first distance between said auxiliary anode and said cathode is smaller than a second distance between said auxiliary anode and said anode." It is acknowledged within the Office Action that this limitation has proper antecedent basis in the drawings. By the above amendment, the specification has been amended to add a description specifying that "a first distance between the auxiliary anode 15 and the cathode 12 is smaller than a second distance between the auxiliary anode 15 and the anode 11 in order to assist the emitting of electrons from the cathode 12 and also to inhibit the bombardment of cation on the cathode 12." This description is not new matter. As acknowledged within the Office Action, this added sentence clarifies what was originally shown in the drawings.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: October 18, 2004

By: Jonathan O. Owens
Jonathan O. Owens
Reg. No. 37,902
Attorneys for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP
Date: 10/18/04 By: [Signature]